

Welcome

1st Sunday after Christmas

December 26, 2021

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion



UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused

4770 Bringle Ferry Road, Salisbury, NC 28146
(704) 636-5092 ~ <http://ulcsalisbury.org>

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Wexford Carol Krug

Belles and Beaus

The Altar Candles are lit at this time during the Prelude.

The minister leads the congregation in the invocation.

Please stand as able and turn to face the cross.

P In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19)

C **Amen**

BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:8-9)

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (John 20:22-23)

C **Amen**

HYMN Joy to the World LBW# 39

GREETING

The minister greets the congregation.

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains. *Refrain*

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; gloria in excelsis Deo.

SALUTATION (2 Timothy 4:22)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our nature and be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been redeemed and made your children by grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

We read scripture from the Old Testament, Apostolic Letters and the Gospels because faith comes from hearing. (Romans 10:17)

FIRST LESSON: Exodus 13:1-3a, 11-15

¹The Lord said to Moses, ²“Consecrate to me all the firstborn. Whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine.” ³Then Moses said to the people, ¹¹“When the Lord brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you, ¹²you shall set apart to the Lord all that first opens the womb. All the firstborn of your animals that are males shall be the Lord's. ¹³Every firstborn of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem. ¹⁴And when in time to come your son asks you, ‘What does this mean?’ you shall say to him, ‘By a strong hand the Lord brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery. ¹⁵For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the Lord killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of animals. Therefore I sacrifice to the Lord all the males that first open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’”

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, ¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Lay Reader Here ends the reading.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Let Our Gladness Have No End

3 Into flesh is made the Word. Hallelujah!
He, our refuge and our Lord. Hallelujah! *Refrain*

Refrain: On this day God gave us Christ, his Son, to save us;
Christ, his Son, to save us.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, {Joseph and Mary} brought {Jesus} up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel." ³³And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is

appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON

Leading a Life of Service

Pastor Heidi Punt

ANTEHM

Simeon’s Prayer

Hegenbart

Chancel Choir

Please stand as you are able.

NICENE CREED (Romans 10:9-10)

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

THE PRAYERS (1 Timothy 2:1-4)

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Lord, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

THE PEACE (John 20:19)

In an attempt to be vigilant and responsible, please use Hand Sanitizers provided at each entrance. Please refrain from shaking hands and reserve a little space between one another. Nods, elbows, or gentle pat on the shoulders, etc., are welcome!

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS (Psalm 116:12-13, 17-19)

The Offering is received as the Lord's Table is prepared. All loose offering will go towards the Lutheridge Scholarship Fund. During the month of December, the Benevolence focus is on India Transformed and Spiritual Orphans Network. If you wish for your giving to go there please specify accordingly.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY HYMN The First Noel

5 Then entered in those wise men three,
 full rev'rently upon their knee,
 and offered there in his presence
 their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

Refrain:

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel!
Born is the King of Israel.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us-our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING (2 Timothy 4:22)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS Angels, from the Realms of Glory

4 All creation, join in praising
 God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
 evermore your voices raising
 to the eternal Three in One.
 Come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the newborn king.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

P In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

C **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen**

Please be seated.

COMMUNION (Mark 14:23)

As the minister gives the bread and wine, and says these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen

At Union Lutheran Church the Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated each Sunday. All baptized Christians who believe in the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper are invited to commune. All who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.

AGNUS DEI

Away in a Manger

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

LBW# 198

Please stand as you are able.

After all have returned to their places, the minister may say these or similar words.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his
grace.

C **Amen**

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

PRAYER

The following or a similar post-communion prayer is said.

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us
through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you
would strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and fervent love
toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

BENEDICTION (Numbers 6:22-27)

The minister blesses the congregation, using this or another appropriate blessing.

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

LBW# 70

THE SENDING (Matthew 28:19)

The minister may dismiss the congregation.

P You have been nurtured in Word and Sacrament now go therefore and make disciples of all nations

C **Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and of the Holy Spirit.**

P Union Lutheran Church you are sent!

C **Amen, amen, amen**

POSTLUDE

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Staszkeski

Next Week's Readings (January 2):

1 Kings 3:4-15; Psalm 119:97-104; Ephesians 1:3-14; Luke 2:40-52

THOSE SERVING IN DECEMBER

Acolytes: Jordan and Mallory Eagle

Altar Guild: Robyn Arey, Jan Huffman, Mary Hutchens, and Vivian Sprinkle

Communion Assistants:

Vicki Hunter, Franklin Merrell, Doris Shepherd, and Vivian Sprinkle

Lay Readers: Robyn Arey

Ushers: Larry Barringer, Mike Cauble, Phil Cauble (HU), and Don Davis

Offering Counting Team:

Mary Elizabeth Earnhardt, Sonya Mulkey, and Vivian Sprinkle

Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) green hymnal

With One Voice (WOV) blue hymnal

Lutheran Book of Worship Setting 2 (pages 77-97)

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“A SIMPLE EXPLANATION OF THE CHURCH SERVICE”

Welcome to church! As you participate in the church service, we will be providing you with weekly nuggets to help you understand more of what is happening, why it is happening, and some of the special language used in church.

NUGGET #10A: SCRIPTURE READINGS

The church service follows a simple pattern for the hearing of God’s Word with a reading from the Old Testament, one from an apostle letter (Epistle), and one from a Gospel.

So faith comes from hearing,, and hearing through the word of Christ. Romans 10:17

The **Old Testament** reading teaches us about God’s work in the Old Testament. There, we hear the prophecies of the Messiah who would come that all people might once again be brought back to God.

The **Gradual** is a portion of a psalm or other Scripture passage that provides a response after the Old Testament reading.

The **Epistle** shows how God’s Word accomplishes what it says-creating faith, bestowing forgiveness, strengthening God’s people in their struggles against sin, and enlivening in them the hope of eternal life.

(“A Simple Explanation of the Church Service”, page 12, Concordia Publishing House, 2018)

Christmas Prayer

Let the just rejoice,
for their justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
For their saviour is born.
Let the captives rejoice,
For their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice,
for their Master is born.
Let free men rejoice,
For their Liberator is born.
Let All Christians rejoice,
For Jesus Christ is born.

St. Augustine of Hippo 354-440AD



POINSETTIAS

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Marvin and Phoebe Nunn and in memory of Dollie Shaver by:

Don and Tara Davis

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Kay Edmiston, Sue Eagle, and Jerry Taylor by:

Don and Tara Davis

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Sharon and Sonya Leazer, Karen and Larry Barringer, and Wade Leazer by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Adam Thompson, Dalton and Wyatt Thompson by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of John and Mae Oddie, Pauline Leazer, Pauline Oddie, and John Oddie, Jr. by:

Ruby Leazer

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God in memory of Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Frick, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Merrell, Franz Merrell, and Elaine Honbarrier by:

Frank and Dawn Merrell

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in memory of Floyd and Margaret Peeler by:

Steven and Malynda Peeler

A poinsettia has been placed to the Glory of God and in honor of Paul Baker sharing his musical talents during the Advent Season by:

Pastor Heidi Punt

UNION LUTHERAN CHURCH

A charter congregation of North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

OUR MISSION:

Christ Centered - Mission Driven - Traditionally-Grounded - Congregationally Focused
(Matthew 28:18-20)

OUR 2021 VISION: *One Relationship at a Time*

4470 Bringle Ferry Road
Salisbury, NC 28146

Phone (704) 636-5092 ~ Fax (704) 636-1022

Website: <https://ulcsalisbury.org/>

OFFICE HOURS: 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

9:30 a.m. Sunday School (please remember to practice social distancing)

10:30 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Heidi Punt, Pastor - pastor@ulcsalisbury.org
(815) 883-4883

Rev. T. C. Plexico, Pastor Emeritus

Music Director: Isaiah Cornelius - musicdirector@ulcsalisbury.org

Organist: Tina Brown - organist@ulcsalisbury.org

Staff Support: Genevieve Baker - office@ulcsalisbury.org

Facilities Manager: Phil Cauble (704) 213-0646 - sexton@ulcsalisbury.org

